

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract on page 59 as follows:

A punching unit is arranged so that a plurality of punches (~~52a through 52c and 53 or 89a through 89d~~) is grouped into a first group having a predetermined number of punches and ~~into~~ a second group containing any one of the punches in the first group and having a smaller number of punches. A punching state of the predetermined number of punches is produced by reciprocating a reciprocating member (~~35 or 75~~) within a first ~~movable~~ range and by vertically moving the punches of the first group through the intermediary of cams and followers (~~62 or 25~~) corresponding to the first group and another punching state of the smaller number of punches is reached by reciprocating the reciprocating member (~~35 or 75~~) within a second movable range and ~~by~~ vertically moving the punches of the second group through the intermediary of cams and followers corresponding to the second group. This arrangement allows the number of punches and dies to be reduced as compared to the prior art ~~unit and the structure of the unit to be simplified with smaller number of parts.~~